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United States of America

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

RICHARD ARELLANO-MENDOZA,

Defendant.

CASE NO. 2:23-CR-205-KJM

STIPULATION AND JOINT REQUEST FOR
PROTECTIVE ORDER; PROTECTIVE ORDER

I. STIPULATION

1. Plaintiff United States of America, by and through its counsel of record, and defendant Richard Arellano-Mendoza, by and through his counsel of record, Michael E. Hansen (“Defendant” and “Defense Counsel”), for the reasons set forth below, hereby stipulate, agree, and request that the Court enter a Protective Order in this case restricting the use and dissemination of certain materials that could identify undercover agents and/or confidential sources, and/or that contain personal identifying information (“PII”) and other confidential information of real persons.

2. This Court may enter protective orders pursuant to Rule 16(d) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Local Rule 141.1, and its general supervisory authority.

3. On August 17, 2023 the Grand Jury returned an indictment charging Defendant with conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute fentanyl, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 846, 841(a)(1) (Count One), possession with intent to distribute fentanyl, in violation of 21 U.S.C.

§ 841(a)(1) (Count Two), distribution of fentanyl, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) (Count Three), assault on a federal officer with a deadly weapon, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 111(b) (Count Four), robbery of money of the United States, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2114 (Count Five), and brandishing a firearm in and during and in relation to a crime of violence, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c) (Count Six).

4. Defendant was initially represented by the Office of the Federal Defender. On April 29, 2025, Defense Counsel Michael E. Hansen filed a substitution of attorney (ECF No. 42).

5. As part of its investigation in the above-captioned case, the government is in the possession of documents and other materials relating to the charges against the Defendant, and seeks to provide those materials to counsel for the Defendant given the recent appointment of Defense Counsel Michael E. Hansen. The government seeks to do so pursuant to its discovery obligations, although some of the materials may exceed the scope of the government's discovery obligations and will be produced to promote a prompt and just resolution of the case.

6. The government intends to produce to Defense Counsel: (1) audio recordings, video recordings, photographs, investigative reports and/or other documents that could identify law enforcement undercover agents and/or confidential sources; and (2) materials containing PII and other confidential information of real persons. These real persons are third parties, co-conspirators, and/or witnesses to this case. This discovery will be considered "Protected Material" as described in this stipulation and order, as will any other discovery marked as Protected Material.

7. The purpose of this stipulation and order is to establish the procedures that must be followed by Defense Counsel, any designated employees, and any other individual who receives access to any Protected Material in this case and the information therein.

8. The Government shall produce the aforementioned Protected Material to Defense Counsel, designating the discovery with the bates prefix, "ARELLANO-MENDOZA_PM_." This discovery, and any subsequent material discovered by the Government to Defense Counsel using the bates-prefix, shall be considered Protected Material.

1 9. All Protected Material in this case is now and will forever remain the property of the
2 Government. It is entrusted to Defense Counsel only for purposes of representing her Defendant during
3 the pendency of this case.

4 10. Defense Counsel shall not give any Protected Material to any person other than Defense
5 Counsel's staff assisting in preparation of the present case. The term "staff" shall explicitly include only
6 attorneys, paralegals, legal assistants, retained experts, and investigators assisting Defense Counsel in
7 the present matter. The term excludes any person involved in any case in which discovery concerning
8 the Defendant is produced and any other person other than those specifically authorized to see Protected
9 Material under this paragraph.

10 11. Any person receiving access to the Protected Material from Defense Counsel shall be
11 bound by the same obligations as Defense Counsel and, further, may not give any Protected Material to
12 anyone.

13 12. No members of the Defendant's family, friends of the Defendant, personal or
14 professional associates of the Defendant, or any other person affiliated with the Defendant shall be given
15 access to any Protected Material or its contents in any manner, for any reason.

16 13. Defense Counsel may make copies of Protected Material and may take written or typed
17 notes summarizing it in connection with preparation of the case. If necessary to the litigation of the
18 instant matter, Defense Counsel may also have audio or video forms of Protected Material transcribed.
19 All notes, copies, duplicates, summaries, transcripts, or other representations of or concerning the
20 information in the Protected Material comprises "Protected Material" itself, must be affixed with the
21 corresponding bates numbers and the "Protected Material" ledger, and is subject to all terms of this
22 stipulation and order.

23 14. Defense Counsel shall maintain a list of persons to whom any Protected Material is being
24 or has been given. Such persons shall be provided with a copy of the executed version of this stipulation
25 and order, shall sign their full names to a copy, and shall in writing acknowledge that they understand its
26 terms and are bound by it. If Defense Counsel is replaced for any reason, or if new counsel is appointed
27 in any phase of the matter, the new counsel shall not have access to any Protected Material until and
28 unless they sign a copy of this stipulation and order, under the terms described in this paragraph.

15. Defense Counsel may use the Protected Material in the defense of Defendant in the instant case in any manner deemed essential to adequately represent him (i.e., in motions that are filed under seal, if necessary; in ex-parte applications as may be needed; and in reproducing and summarizing Protected Material for use in trial preparation summaries, exhibits and as evidence, as may be needed), consistent with this stipulation and order as it shall be originally prepared and signed.

16. In the event Defense Counsel needs to use any Protected Material in a manner not authorized under this stipulation and order, Defense Counsel is entitled to seek to have this stipulation and order amended by the District Court, after having given notice to counsel for the Government, in a hearing before the District Court, in order to meet the obligations under the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

17. Defense Counsel and any authorized members of Defense Counsel's staff are authorized to review with Defendant the contents of the Protected Material. Defense Counsel and authorized members of her staff, however, are prohibited from in any way giving the Defendant any Protected Material or any memorialization of the content of any of it, such as: any of the Protected Material itself; copies of any of the Protected Material; copies of excerpts of any of the Protected Material; or summaries of any of the Protected Material. This prohibition will not extend to the Defendant viewing the Protected Material in open court should any of these materials or summaries thereof be used in the litigation of this case.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: May 5, 2025

MICHELE BECKWITH
Acting United States Attorney

By: /s/ JUSTIN LEE
JUSTIN LEE
Assistant United States Attorney

Dated: May 5, 2025

/s/ MICHAEL E. HANSEN
MICHAEL E. HANSEN
Counsel for Defendant
Richard Arellano-Mendoza

[PROPOSED] FINDINGS AND ORDER

The Court having read and considered the Stipulation and Joint Request for a Protective Order, which this Court incorporates by reference into this Order in full, hereby finds that GOOD CAUSE exists to enter the above Order.

IT IS SO FOUND AND ORDERED this 5th day of May, 2025.



THE HONORABLE CHI SOO KIM
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE